

SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, EXCEPT AUGUST, BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND RURAL WORK
THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

MISSIONS BUILDING

222 DOWNEY AVENUE

PRICE: \$1.00 PER YEAR INCLUDES SOCIAL ACTION MAGAZINE

NO. 10 VOL. V

NOVEMBER 1942

BRITISH CHRISTIANITY ADVANCES

Between September 23 and September 30, British churchmen did several things which caused Time (Oct. 12) to designate that fortnight as one in which Britain advanced further toward practical inter-faith cooperation than any other nation has done in the last 400 years. The activities that called forth this high praise were:

1. The organization of the British Council of Churches as an "official representative organization for common planning and action." The Council is composed of 112 members of the Anglican, Presbyterian, and Nonconformist faiths and numbers in its membership many of the principal religious leaders of Britain.

2. The formation of a Council of Christians and Jews under the joint presidency of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the moderator of the Free Church Federal Council (federation of Nonconformist churches), Cardinal Hinsley, Roman Catholic Primate of England, and Chief Rabbi Joseph Herman Hertz of the British Empire.

3. A mass meeting was held in Albert Hall, one of the largest meeting places in England, to plan the follow-up of the Malvern Conference. With the hall jammed to the doors, some 8,000 were turned away. The speakers were the Archbishop of Canterbury (whose address was published in Christian Century, Oct. 7th), the Archbishop of York, and Sir Stafford Cripps. The meeting drew many of the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Free Church, and Eastern Orthodox leaders and stirred up debate throughout the British press.

At the inaugural service of the British Council of Churches, Dr. William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury and former Archbishop of York and one of the prime movers in the formation of the World Council of Churches, took as his text, "And Jehovah said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward." The Council's first meeting discussed such subjects as home and family life, rural reconstruction, chaplaincies for munitions workers, youth, and prisoners of war; the situation of the churches on the Continent, post-war reconstruction of Europe and the Far East. Commenting upon the Albert Hall meeting, Time's religious editor said: "Though none of the speakers... went beyond Malvern all made it clear that the once-conservative Anglican Church intends to play a leading and radical part in social reconstruction after the war. Canterbury, for instance, urged national control of money and land ownership, virtual abandonment of the profit motive, and abolition of British class distinctions."

RACE RELATIONS DETERIORATING IN THE U.S.

It is no secret that race relations in the U.S. have steadily grown worse in the past few months, despite all that those who are working for national unity could do to prevent it. Thousands of Negroes have been employed in war industries since the President set up his Fair Employment Practices Committee, but many of them are in such menial positions as janitors, messengers, etc., and relatively few are given a chance at skilled jobs, even when their competency is attested. Though every war contract carries a clause forbidding discrimination in employment, evasion of its provisions is relatively easy. Serious difficulties over racial issues growing out of Negroes among workers brought from New York, were narrowly averted at the famed Henry Kaiser shipyards in Portland, Oregon in mid-October. Governor Dixon of Alabama during the past summer rejected a contract for 1,750,000 yards of tenting material to be produced for the armed forces by one of the state institutions because of the non-discrimination clause. Evidently the Governor of Alabama would prefer that our soldiers go without tents rather than have his state obey a federal regulation of this sort. The army has established a few Negro units including the reactivating of the 92nd Division of Negro troops of World War fame. But relatively few have been commissioned as officers and Negro aviation still lags. The Navy has opened its doors to Negroes, but those who respond frequently find themselves assigned as mess-boys or members of 'jim crow' units.

Far more serious than discrimination in defense industries and the armed forces is the resurgence of racial animosity in civilian life. Incidents like these are creating a dangerous situation:

1. Prof. Hugh M. Gloster of Morehouse College, a part of famed Atlanta University, Memphis-bound to attend the National Baptist Convention, Inc., early in September was taken from the train at Tupelo, Miss., beaten by two police officers and compelled to spend a night in jail because he had made "a sane and courteous suggestion to the conductor."

2. Dr. S. C. Jackson of Hartford, Conn., and Rev. S. A. Young of Washington, D.C., bound for the same convention were slapped by a white passenger when they attempted to pass through a white coach in order to reach the convention Pullman.

3. Lewis Twigg, young Negro insurance executive whose company has bought thousands of dollars worth of war bonds, went to the Memphis Negro employment office to offer volunteer help in the war effort. In the vestibule of the office an unseen voice

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HOW HIGH ARE WAR WAGES?

Uninformed public opinion is likely to jump to the conclusion that because some wage scales are unusually high all workers are making extravagant wages and are rolling in wealth. Recently a Christian woman was heard to exclaim, "Why that man makes \$75 a week! I think that is ridiculous!" Many people hear reports of fabulous wages and assume that all workers are likewise remunerated. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, which keeps an accurate record of U.S. wage payments, shows that wages of \$1 an hour and \$50 a week are unusual. As late as January 1942 the Bureau estimated that one-fifth of the approximately 10,450,000 wage-earners employed in manufacturing industries averaged less than 50¢ an hour, one-third averaged \$1 or more an hour, and the remaining 7,000,000 earned between 50¢ and 99¢ per hour. The average hour rate for all workers was 74¢. Those engaged in war industries (iron, steel and non-ferrous metals, machinery, transportation equipment, lumber & chemicals) the average was 84¢. These averages are based on straight time hourly earnings and do not include over-time or incentive rates.

In June 1942 the Bureau reported that the number of workers in all manufacturing industries had increased to 10,920,000, the hourly rates had risen to an average of 84¢, the average work week to 42.5 hours and the average weekly earnings to \$38.05. For the nearly six million persons engaged in the so-called durable-goods industries the average hourly rate was 93½¢, the average work week 45 hours, and the average weekly earnings \$44.05. For the non-durable goods industries (textiles, leather, food, tobacco, paper and printing, chemicals, rubber, etc.) the average hourly rate was 72½¢, the average work week 40 hours, and the average weekly wage \$28.25. Workers in aircraft industries average \$46.75 per week, those in blast furnaces and rolling mills \$40.85, those in foundries and machine shops \$44.70, those in brick manufacturing \$27.35, and those working in sawmills \$26.30. In the non-durable goods lines petroleum workers received \$42.20, paper and pulp workers \$33.10, boot and shoe workers \$24.90, and textile (cotton goods) manufacturing \$21.65. Wage rates should be compared to executive and managerial salaries and dividend payments to get the true perspective.

FEDERAL COUNCIL ADVISES ON PLACING CHURCH FLAGS

Recently an uproar was created in the village of West Newton, N. J., when the chief of police, an active American Legionnaire, took it upon himself to invade the Presbyterian Church and remove the U.S. flag to a position where he believed it would have precedence over the Christian flag. Taking note of the possibilities of misunderstanding the Federal Council of Churches has stated its judgment that the Christian flag should always hold the position of honor in the church, in the chancel on the minister's right. Since there is no law on the subject (only a Congressional resolution regarding the U.S. flag) and since the church should be the best judge of where all flags should be placed, so long as they are treated with respect, it would seem that the Federal Council's suggestion is valid. In the Navy the church flag always flies above the national flag while divine services are being held.

CHARGE FASCISTS PLAN TO SEIZE POWER IN MEXICO

Mexican Labor News, a weekly press service issued by the Workers University of Mexico, Mexico City, under date of September 8, circulates the charge of federal deputies (members of the Mexican Congress) Cesar Garizurieta & Luis Ordorica Cerda that the Nationalist Sinarchist Union described as a "Mexican native fascist group which claims 600,000 members," of planning to seize power in that country under the guise of setting up a "New Christian Order."

The Nationalist Sinarchist Union, the deputies declare, "is a pro-Nazi organization whose nationalism resembles that of Francisco Franco and the Spanish Falange. It is a movement against liberalism, anti-Semitic, anti-Communist and ruled by a hierarchy; that is, it is identical with Falangism and Hitlerism." The charge further declares that the Sinarchists "believe in a 'Christian' knight on a white horse who will conquer Latin America." It is also charged that the movement holds the ideal of a 'fascist church-state.'

Though there have been increasing signs of growing friendliness between the administration of President Avila Camacho and the Mexican Catholic Church in recent months, Deputy Garizurieta charges that "Sinarchism is to an extent the unconstitutional intervention of elements of the Clergy in Mexican politics" and that representatives of Action Catolica are plotting with the Sinarchists.

MEXICAN PRESIDENT DECLARES NATION'S WAR AIMS

On September 1, 1942, President Avila Camacho of Mexico made annual report on the state of the nation in which he declared the nation's war aims. He listed 8 measures taken by his administration to date to improve the lot of Mexican workers, constitutional reforms to increase federal power to settle conflicts, initiation of social security measures, government aid to stimulate industries and planning economy, labor unity, support of employer-employee collaboration, housing construction for workers, and the establishment of a federal employment service.

Mass poverty is still Mexico's biggest problem, the President stated. "Busy with building up its exterior economic and political defenses, the government must not forget the disinherited ones who are fighting together with the rest of us for a civilization which so far has given them only its left-overs. We shall make every effort to improve their welfare, now and when that peace comes which will enable us to recreate our capacities. The war in which we find ourselves is basically their war."

The Mexican chief also declared that war aims must not be limited to political freedoms, for "without economic liberty political liberty becomes a hollow word. The present war will be sterile if the democracies, on winning, content themselves with setting up again those conditions which the dictatorships used as a pretext for unloosing the conflict.... The Atlantic Charter is not merely phrases. We have faith in the statesmen who signed it. Behind those men are the people, those people who, like our own, are eager for a better order, a better democracy in a better world."

Mass bombing of German cities is creating a serious situation with regard to increase of deaths from infectious diseases as well as from bombs, according to Lancet, a British medical journal quoted by Associated Press under date of October, 10. According to this information infant mortality rates are the highest since 1933. Death from scarlet fever numbered 1,327 last year, as compared to 445 in 1939. Deaths from tuberculosis and diphtheria are reported to have nearly tripled and deaths from whooping cough almost doubled. Weakened resistance due to mass air raids and scarcity of civilian physicians are said to be the chief causes.

The Springarn Medal for the year's greatest achievement by a Negro was awarded to A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, at the 33rd annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, held in Los Angeles. Wendell Willkie, addressing a convention session of 8,000 in the Shrine auditorium, declared that the "mocking paradoxes in our own society can no longer be ignored." He continued, "We have further shown a smug racial superiority, a willingness to exploit an unprotected people. But the atmosphere is changing. We cannot afford to fight the forces of imperialism abroad and maintain a form of imperialism at home."

Delegates from 15 independent unions claiming a membership of 160,000 met in Chicago on October 2, and formed a third labor federation to rival the AFL and the CIO. Tentatively named "Conference of Independent Unions," the movement is led by Matthew Smith, founder and secretary of the Mechanics' Education Society, which claims a membership of 42,000. Other members of the group are certain telephone and railroad unions and an association of independent unions in Wisconsin. Chief dissatisfaction with AFL and CIO policies: these groups have 'sold out' labor's right to strike without getting anything in return.

As predicted, John L. Lewis, at the convention of United Mine Workers held in Columbus in mid-October, led that union out of the CIO which he had founded. With Lewis out of the picture indications point to a possible unification of CIO and AFL. Negotiations are soon to be resumed with conciliatory statements coming from both sides. Lewis, who still has a few friends in AFL, might join with the anti-Green forces to oust William Green from the presidency of AFL, thus paving the way for a return of the UMW to the AFL. In that event AFL-CIO negotiations would be off. Best guess: Lewis will use UMW as the nucleus from which to develop a rival group of unions. His District 50, which is enlisting dairy farmers as members, and the drive on construction workers headed by Denny Lewis, his brother, furnish possible outlets for such a drive.

On September 17, Senator O'Daniel of Texas laid before the Senate petitions from 25 States totaling 271,733 signatures asking that S.860 be enacted into law. This Bill would forbid the sale of liquor in restricted zones surrounding army camps, naval bases, and air fields.

On September 28, Marjorie Taylor, radio commentator of the Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal devoted almost her entire space to a statement from Gertrude Hardeman, described as "one who has had a varied association with the field of radio," denouncing the so-called "soap operas," family dramas sponsored by soap manufacturers, as demoralizing to family life.

"It is my conviction," she writes, "that these are no times to have stories of broken homes, unfaithfulness, ill-tred quarrels and domestic tragedies going into the American home. All of us are suffering some from shock. We can't go on day by day reading the head-lines without being shaken. We need no shot-in-the-arm of fake tragedies. They add the bit that is too much.

"We are all filled with apprehension for tomorrow - not that we will not win the war because we know we will. But we are continually being frightened by statements that there will be a food shortage - a heat shortage - that after the war the last depression will be a pale comparison with what we'll have to suffer.... All around us is instability. Only within our own four walls is there security or a semblance of it. The American home is the foundation of the nation. Can you see what happens to morale when day by day, hour by hour, pouring into the American home is the threadbare theme that those homes are disintegrating?

"Couldn't we have serials (if we must have serials) which give a conviction of stable homes? Couldn't we have something besides unhappiness? Tragedy? Don't tell me the American people prefer trouble! Look at the popularity of pictures which deal with happy home-stable people and themes."

WAR RELIEF AGENCIES ASK \$75,000,000

The National Budget Committee for War Appeals of the Community Chests and Councils has approved a nationwide asking of \$75,657,000 for ten major war relief agencies. Local community chests will be asked to add their pro-rata share of the national budget to their regular campaign askings. Gifts to war relief agencies may be designated, if desired. The ten agencies whose appeals are approved are:

USO	\$32,000,000
British War Relief	7,000,000
United China Relief	7,000,000
Greek War Relief (6 months)	6,000,000
Russian War Relief	5,500,000
Polish American Council	2,000,000
War Prisoners Aid Committee, YMCA	1,479,000
National Board, YWCA	350,000
American Social Hygiene Ass'n.	330,000
Unallocated reserve	13,500,000

Funds for Greek War Relief were budgeted for a period of only six months because government funds for grain are expected to be available within that time. Since the above appeals were approved a campaign for \$2,000,000 for Yugoslav relief has been launched under the chairmanship of Thomas J. Watson, with headquarters at 8 W. 40th St., New York. The Committee also urged that local community chests give careful consideration to requests from the United Jewish Appeal and the Jewish Welfare Fund for inclusion in local budgets.

Race Relations Deteriorating (continued)

commanded, "Nigger, take off your hat!" Indignant Twigg turned and went away. For showing resentment he was beaten by two police officers and made to stamp his hat in pieces.

4. Roland Hayes, noted Negro Tenor, who lives on a large farm near Rome, Ga., went to the manager of a shoe store to protest discrimination against Mrs. Hayes when she entered the store to make a purchase. Though his protest was made quietly, he was later beaten by two policemen who handcuffed him, threw him on the floor of their automobile and sat upon him. When his wife and little daughter protested they were also arrested and jailed.

5. When Congress passed the law making it possible for soldiers to vote without the payment of poll tax, James A. Parsons, Negro pastor of Tupelo, Miss., announced for Congress in opposition to a prominent Congressman who has held the seat for many years due to the disfranchisement of the Negro voters of the district where they are in the majority. Shortly after announcement of his candidacy was made Mr. Parsons found it expedient to remove himself from the state and from the relatively safe environs of St. Louis, Mo., to wire his withdrawal from the race.

6. Lynching has raised its ugly head in a most threatening manner. Last year Tuskegee recorded only four lynchings, though the NAACP added two more when two Negroes were shot to death in a Texas court room. Early in January of this year a Sikeston, Mo., mob lynched and burned Cleo Wright, Negro, 30, accused of raping and stabbing a white woman. Early in the summer a Negro was lynched near Texarkana, Ark.-Tex., and in mid-October two Negro boys aged 14 were hanged to a bridge in Miss., on accusation of raping a white girl. The Southern Conference for Human Welfare reports that Private Henry Williams, Negro soldier from Birmingham was shot and killed by a bus driver near Mobile, Ala., on August 15, and that a Negro miner of the Birmingham area about to be inducted into the armed services was shot and killed when he appeared at the company offices to claim his pay.

7. Perhaps most dangerous of all is the trouble frequently arising between Negro soldiers and civilians in areas in the South where Negro troops are stationed. There have been numerous riots resulting in bitterness, bloodshed, and death.

The picture is not all dark. Many splendid advances are being made. But we shall do well to heed the warnings that come to us from leaders of the Negro race. Many Negro leaders who have sincerely counselled patience and collaboration are becoming convinced that more can be gained by resort to drastic measures, or threats to do so, than can be gained by the slower method. Japan's clumsy attempt to organize the Negroes of Chicago was not significant in numbers, but it is significant when any group of citizens feel that they can get more justice from a foreign foe than they can from their own government. It is well known that the appointment of the FEPC came just in time to avert a march on Washington by 50,000 Negro leaders from all parts of the nation. The spectacle of 50,000 Negroes assembled before the Lincoln Memorial in Washington petitioning the government for redress of wrongs would not be lost on the rest of the world and might be decisive in our relations with peoples such as those of India, Turkey, Arabia, and Africa.

BRITAIN-U.S. DROP RIGHTS OF EXTRATERRITORIALITY

On October 10, China's "Double-Ten" holiday (the 10th day of the 10th month), and 31st anniversary of the Revolution, the American and British governments, by simultaneous announcement in Washington and London, relinquished their rights of extraterritoriality ('extrality' to old China hands) in China and assured that nation that her post-war sovereignty would be unimpaired by these old treaty obligations. In the Boxer Rebellion at the turn of the century the old Manchu dynasty then ruling China was unable or unwilling to control the rebels and foreigners suffered great loss of life and property. Western powers intervened to restore order. Under the treaties negotiated at that time the western powers were given the right to station troops in China to protect their nationals and to establish courts for trial of criminal and civil cases involving their own nationals. Abolition of these limitations of her sovereignty has been one of the principal aims of Nationalist China since Dr. Sun Yat Sen launched the revolution in 1911.

Immediately following the announcement in Washington, the new Chinese ambassador, Wei Tao-Ming, issued a statement declaring that the action marks "a new era in China's relations with western powers" and stating that it gives "definite assurance to all freedom-loving peoples of the world that the efforts of the United Nations are directed toward achieving political freedom everywhere and equality of rights among all nations." World enthusiasm over the announcement was chilled when two days later London announced that it did not include British relinquishment of Hong Kong, the great naval and commercial base in southeast China.

Though badly needed as evidence that the "Four Freedoms" and the promises of the Atlantic Charter are intended to apply to others as well as to ourselves, the action is at best in the nature of a belated promissory note offering to pay an overdue debt "if and when." Japanese armies have already effectively ended western extraterritoriality in China with something far worse. However grateful China may be for assistance from the United States in her war against Japan, nobody believes she would welcome or permit even her best friends to again invade her sovereignty.

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